

1. (twice amended) A device for invalidating planar security documents[, by perforating means], the device having a horizontal base plate (9) onto which [the] objects (14) to be invalidated are placed, and die plates (13, 17, 18) which are vertically movable and parallel to said base plate, and having perforating means supported on the base plate and the die plates, a drive mechanism by which the die plates can be displaced up and down, wherein the perforating means comprises at least one cutting bushing (23) with a hollow paper punch (19) interacting with [the] each cutting bushing in order to displace the paper scrap in the paper punch, wherein the upper end[s] of [the] each paper punch[es] (19) [are] is open and wherein an exit for the paper scrap is directed upwardly, [communicating with] directly into an upper storage cavity for containing the scrap, the cavity being in a support (03)[, the cavity] and having a vacuum connection [containing the scrap].

2. (amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cutting bushing (23) is provided in the base plate (9), and wherein the paper punch (19) is provided on the die plates (13, 17, 18).

Cancel claim 3, without prejudice.

4. (twice amended) The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the die plates include a guide plate (17) having guide surfaces which receive and guide the paper punch (19) and which support [the] paper products during punching, thus serving as a pressing plate for the paper products (14) to be invalidated, a punch-receiving plate (18), which receives the paper punches (19), and a pressing plate (13).

5. (twice amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the die plates include a guide plate (17) having guide surfaces which receive and guide the paper punch (19) and which support [the] paper products during punching, thus serving as a pressing plate for the paper products (14) to be invalidated, a punch-receiving plate (18), which receives the paper punches (19), and a pressing plate (13).

6. (non-elected).

7. (twice amended) The device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 2, wherein the die plate includes a pressing plate (13) and a receiving plate (18) which are connected at least to springs (22).

8. (twice amended) The device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 2, wherein the die plates include a guide plate, and wherein stops (16) which limit the upper path of [a] the guide plate (17) in order to pull [the] paper punches (19) out of the material being punched (14) are provided on the sides of the device.

Cancel claim 9, without prejudice.

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REMARKS

In order to promote administrative efficiency and better communication, the Examiner is invited to make suggestions at any time during the proceedings, via phone, fax or e-mail, whenever such suggestions are within the Examiner's discretion as an aid to placing the claims in order for allowance in a timely manner.

Point 2: In the Abstract:

The Applicant has amended the Abstract as suggested by the Examiner by removing the italics and has provided a replacement abstract, attached. Further, the phrase —and has a vacuum connection—has been added at the end, just before the final period.

Point 3: Rejection under 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph:

Concerning the Examiner's rejection under 112, Applicant believes that the above amendments to the claims overcome these rejections. The terms and sections which the Examiner identified as being indefinite for failure to distinctly claim the